

**What is claimed is:**

1. A method of stabilizing a surface, the method comprising the steps of:

5 disposing a porous element on a surface to be stabilized;

depositing a flowable material onto the porous element, said flowable material entering openings defined within said porous element; and

10 allowing the flowable material to set within said openings, the porous element and set flowable material forming a microclimate on said surface favorable to growth of vegetation.

15 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing a flowable material is performed after the step of disposing the porous element on the surface to be stabilized.

20 3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of fastening the porous element onto the surface to be stabilized before the step of depositing the flowable material.

25 4. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises the step of injecting the flowable material into the porous element.

30 5. The method of claim 4 wherein the step of injecting comprises injecting the flowable material into the porous element using conventional seeding apparatus.

35 6. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of depositing comprises hydraulically applying the flowable material to the porous element.

porous element.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of  
depositing comprises hydraulically applying a mulching  
5 material to the porous element.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the step of  
depositing comprises hydraulically applying a bonded fiber  
matrix material to the porous element.

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9. The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element  
comprises a reinforced fiber matting.

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10. The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element  
comprises a three-dimensional, cellular matting.

11. The method of claim 1 wherein the porous element  
comprises a substantially two-dimensional netting material.

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The method of claim 1 wherein the step of  
disposing comprises securing the porous element to the  
surface prior to the step of depositing.

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13. A system for stabilizing a surface prone to soil  
erosion, the system comprising:

a porous element disposed on a surface to be  
stabilized; and

a matrix material incorporated within the porous  
element;

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the system being made by anchoring the porous element  
to the surface and thereafter injecting a fluid matrix  
material into the porous element and thereafter allowing the  
fluid matrix material to set within openings defined within  
the porous element.

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14. The system of claim 13 wherein the porous element is a cellular matting.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein the porous element  
5 comprises a netting material.

16. The system of claim 13 wherein the matrix material comprises a mixture of fibers bonded with a polymer material.

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